

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 DRC-01 /038 W

----- 011172

R 141130Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3211

INFO CMD/NWC

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1499/1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, CM, US

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO CAMEROON

FOR USDAO NDJAMENA

1. SUMMARY. GURC RECEIVED NWC AFRICAN STUDY GROUP VISIT MAY 2-4 WITH GREAT WARMTH. EXCELLENT RAPPORT ESTABLISHED AND AMBIANCE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. WE BELIEVE VISIT VERY SUCCESSFUL FROM VISITORS VIEWPOINT. WE KNOW IT WAS HELPFUL TO EMBASSY. WHILE ANNUAL VISITS WOULD STRAIN GURC RESOURCES UNDULY, RECOMMEND CAMEROON AGAIN BE INCLUDED ON ITINERARY IN TWO OR THREE YEARS AND THAT VISIT BE SOMEWHAT LENGTHIER TO PERMIT BROADER FIR THAND VIEW OF THIS DIVERSE AFRICAN COUNTRY.

2. EMBASSY WISHES RECORD ITS DEEP SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS FIRST-EVER VISIT MAY 2-4 TO CAMEROON OF NWC STUDY GROUP. BELIEVE NWC VISITORS SIMILARLY PLEASED.

3. PRE-VISIT ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVED LONG DELAY BEFORE GURC OFFICIALLY SAID "YES" TO VISIT AND THEN PROTRACTED PERIOD BEFORE IT MANAGED CLARIFY WHERE PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY LAY AND BEGAN SERIOUSLY TO SET UP PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS.

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THIS PREVENTED EMBASSY FROM FURNISHING NWC VISITORS PROGRAM

DETAILS IN ADVANCE AS DESIRED, BUT IS USUAL STORY FOR ANY VISIT TO CAMEROON, HOWEVER WELCOME. NEVERTHELESS, PROGRAM WAS READY BEFORE VISITING GROUP'S C-130 TOUCHED DOWN AND WAS THEN EXECUTED FLAWLESSLY.

4. PROGRAM INCLUDED: INITIAL PROTOCOL CALL BY FIVE SENIOR VISITORS ON MINSTATE ARMED FORCES SADOU DAOUDOU WHILE ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL SEMANGUE OFFERED REFRESHMENTS TO REST OF GROUP; BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR AND STAFF; AND GURC BRIEFINGS ON GKA) DEFENSE POLICY BY SADOU DAOUDOU AND (B) GENERAL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY BY MINISTER MINES AND POWER HENRY ELANGWE.

5. PREPARED STATEMENT BY SADOU DAOUDOU CONSISTED MOSTLY OF COMPETENT, IF ROUTINE DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF CAMEROON ARMED FORCES (THIS DESPITE EMBASSY'S DILIGENT EFFORTS DURING EVERY PHASE OF PREPARATORY COLLABORATION WITH GURC OFFICIALS TO CONVEY WHAT KIND OF BRIEFING NWC VISITORS HOPED TO HEAR AND WHAT THEY DID NOT NEED). DURING

ENSUING UNLIMITED QUESTION PERIOD, HOWEVER, STUDENTS POSED EXCELLENT QUESTIONS AND RECEIVE STRAIGHTFORWARD, RESPONSIVE ANSWERS FROM THIS RETAXED SELN-CONFIDENT MINISTER WHO HAS LONG BEEN A TRUSTED AIDE OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND HAS HELD KEY ARMED FORCES PORTFOLIO SINCE 1961. SADOU DAOUDOU GAVE DETAILED ESPECIALLY GOOD EXPLANATIONS OF HOW GURC SUCCEEDED IN COUNTERING UPC REBELLION (COMBINATION OF WINNING POPULATION'S CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION, TOUGH MILITARY ACTIVITY, AND DIPLOMACY TO CUT OUT FOREIGN SUPPORT) AND LANGUAGE POLICY IN ARMED FORCES IN THIS BILINGUAL COUNTRY (FRENCH LANGUAGE AND SYSTEM USED BY MILITARY, ANGLOPHONE RECRUITS GIVEN INITIAL FRENCH TRAINING, ANGLOPHONES AND FRANCOPHONES THEN FULLY INTERMINGLED IN BOTH TRAINING UNITS AND SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS, EACH OFFICER CANDIDATE GIVEN SPECIAL TRAINING IN WHATEVER IS NOT HIS PRIMARY LANGUAGE AND SOME OFFICER TRAINING SUBJECTS TAUGHT IN ONE LANGUAGE, SOME IN THE OTHER). GLM

6. ELANGWE DESCRIBED GURC POLICY IN ABSURDLY FLOWERY LANGUAGE AND IN BROAD GENERALITIES. HE APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS CHOSEN TO GIVE THIS BASIC BRIEFING BECAUSE HE IS ONE OF THE FEW ANGLOPHONE MINISTERS (AND ALSO PERFORMED SIMILAR ROLE

FOR VISIT LAST YEAR OF THE UK'S ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES). EMBASSY HAD DISCREETLY SUGGESTED SEVERAL OTHER BETTER QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR THIS BRIEFING, BUT WE OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT INSIST ON SPEAKER OF OUR CHOICE. GURC WAS EVIDENTLY DETERMINED THAT BRIEFING BE CARRIED OUT

AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND LET ELANGWE DO HIS THING. (HE DID).
NWC STUDENTS POLITELY POSED SEVERAL QUESTIONS TO ELANGWE, WHO
ANSWERED IN HIS USUAL STYLE.

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ACTION AF-18

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DODE-00 DRC-01 /038 W

----- 011215

R 141130Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3212

INFO CMD/NWC

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1499

7. SOCIAL EVENTS INCLUDED FIRST EVENING GALA DINNER
DANCE (WITH FOLK DANCE ENTERTAINMENT ALSO) HOSTED BY
SADOU DAOUDOU IN GRAND BALLROOM OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BUILDING. ABOUT 450 GUESTS INCLUDED UNUSUAL TURNOUT OF
VIRTUALLY EVERY GURC MINISTER, ENTIRE ARRANGEMENT OF SENIOR
OFFICIALS, AND MANY MILITARY OFFICERS. IT TURNED OUT TO
BE A EXCEEDINGLY ENJOYABLE OCCASION FOR ALL CONCERNED.
SECOND EVENING, AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION FOR 150 GUESTS
FOLLOWED BY DINNERS (12-15 PERSONS EACH) AT RESIDENCES OF
FOUR COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS. CAMEROONIAN GUESTS AT RECEPTION
AND DINNERS WERE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF KEY
OFFICIALS, INCLUDING TOP MILITARY OFFICERS, AND THESE
OCCASIONS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN
WARM AMBIANCE OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP.

8. EMBASSY POUCHING TO AF/C AND AF/RA COPIES OF PROGRAM
FOR VISIT.

9. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

(A) ONCE IT AGREES TO A VISIT AND CONCENTRATES ON PUTTING
PROGRAM TOGETHER, GURC REGULARLY TREATS VISITORS WELL. EMBASSY
ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY COMPETENCE SHOWN BY ARMED FORCES
MINISTRY IN HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS, A COMPETENCE WHICH SEEMED

TO EXCEED BY FAR THAT USUALLY SHOWN BY CIVILIAN ESTABLISHMENT.
EMBASSY (AND VISITORS TOO) EVEN MORE IMPRESSED HOWEVER,
BY WARTTH OF RECEPTION AND FRIENDLY AURA SURROUNDING ENTIRE
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VISIT. WE WERE ALL SIMPLY BOWLED OVER BY SCOPE AND
AMBIANCE OF FIRST EVENING GALA DINNER (PARA 7) WHICH
FAR EXCEEDED SIMILAR FUNCTION PUT ON LAST SEPTEMBER
FOR THE BRITISH VISIT.

(B) GURC REGULARLY ISOLATES ITS MILITARY FROM CONTACTS
WITH DIPLOMATS EXCEPT UNDER FULLY CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES.
THIS VISIT THUS GAVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL RARE OPPORTUNITY
TO ASSOCIATE WITH LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS, IN-
CLUDING KEY INDIVIDUALS AT OR NEAR THE TOP. WE WILL HAVE
TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GURC RULES AND NOT BE ABLE TO
FOLLOW THROUGH ON THESE CONTACTS, AS WE COULD WITH OTHER
ELEMENTS OF CAMEROON ELITE, BUT IT IS USEFUL TO HAVE
HAD AT LEAST THIS ONE INTENSIVE OCCASION TO FORM
IMPRESSIONS AND ESTABLISH RAPPORT.

(C) NWC PARTICIPANTS WILL OF COURSE BE SUBMITTING THEIR
OWN POST-TRIP EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. DESPITE SOME
OBVIOUS SHORTCOMINGS ABOUT GURC BRIEFINGS, WE HAVE EVERY
REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS
VISIT TO CAMEROON AND INSIGHTS ABOUT AFRICA GAINED THEREFROM.
FOR OUR PART, WE WOULD WELCOME FUTURE VISITS TO THIS COUNTRY,
AND BELIEVE THE GURC WOULD ALSO, PROVIDED THEY BE PROPERLY
SPACED AND ARRANGED. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANNUAL VISITS
WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A COSTLY IMPOSITION ON GURC RESOURCES,
BUT A NEXT VISIT IN TWO YEARS (OR THREE) WOULD SEEM SUITABLE.
ALSO, VISITORS SHOULD STAY IN CAMEROON MORE THAN TWO DAYS,
TO MAKE POSSIBLE TRIPS BEYOND CAPITAL CITY. A THIRD
DAY, OR PREFERABLY EVEN A FOURTH, WOULD PERMIT THEM TO
SEE MORE OF THIS UNIQUELY DIVERSE COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE
THAT THIS OVERLY BRIEF, IF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, VISIT
WAS AT SAME TIME MILDLY FRUSTRATING BOTH TO HOSTS AND
GUESTS, WHO WOULD HAVE WANTED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHOW
AND SEE MORE.

10. POSTSCRIPT: WITH ALL HUMILITY, WE WONDER IF TIME HAS
NOT COME TO CHANGE NWC TITLE TO SUGGEST A
LESS-AGRESSIVE MISSION. THE LITERAL TRANSLATION INTO
FRENCH CREATES AN EVEN MORE VIVID IMPRESSION IN THE
OSTENSIBLY THRID WORLD ATMOSPHERE OF AFRICA.
MOORE

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